



For Immediate Release

Easton, MD – January 25, 2023

Contact: Clay B. Stamp

County Manager

cbstamp@talbotcountymd.gov

410-770-8010

Talbot County Council Meeting Highlights, Tuesday, January 24, 2023

These highlights only reflect the business items covered from the Council's approved agenda. To view the complete County Council meeting, please visit: Talbot County Meeting Videos - Talbot County, Maryland (www.talbotcountymd.gov).

Introduction of Tammy Stafford, New Election Director, Talbot County Board of Elections

– Ms. Stafford and Joe Secrist, President, Talbot County Board of Elections briefed Council on the Election Board and noted that Ms. Stafford has recently been promoted as the Election Director. Ms. Stafford stated that the Election Board had sent a letter to the County Council regarding the importance of establishing a new office location for the Board of Elections in advance of the 2024 election. She noted the Election Board believes it is necessary for the new Board office to provide space sufficient to consolidate all election functions including administrative offices, space to house the election machines and equipment as well as to provide training. Ms. Stafford stated that she had recently met with Clay Stamp, County Manager, to discuss office space and that a County staff work group will be established to make a recommendation to the Council.

Update on Neighborhood Service Center – Marilyn Neal, Executive Director,

Neighborhood Service Center – Ms. Neal briefed Council on the Neighborhood Service Center, founded in 1969 serving as the County's designated non-profit Community Action Agency that provides stabilizing services and assistance to low-income families and elderly residents in Talbot County. In FY22, the Neighborhood Service Center served approximately 1 out of every 15 residents, accounting for 2,599 unduplicated individuals, of which 34.64% were aged 55+ for a total of 1,358 households served. Programs offered include: arrearage assistance, food pantry and mobile food pantry, CARES for Covid-19 relief, Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP), heating assistance, utility payment assistance, eviction prevention payments, 2 GEN services, responsible fathers program, youth program (both after-school and summer), rapid rehousing, temporary hotel placement and security deposits. A full listing of programs can be found on the Neighborhood Service Center's website at: www.nsctalbotmd.org. Ms. Neal noted that while the majority of services are provided to citizens in the town of Easton, services are provided to all municipalities and villages in Talbot County, with case management services, heating assistance, home and auto repairs and utility payments being primary services.

Presentation on Bellevue Passage Museum Project – Dr. Dennis De Shields – Dr. De Shields and Philip Logan, Preservation Green, LLC briefed Council on the proposal for the Bellevue Passage Museum to be located in Bellevue, Maryland. The purpose of the project is to honor the historic significance of the Bellevue community as well as inform the public about the self-sustaining African-American maritime heritage and recognize notable accomplishments and contributions of Bellevue’s residents. Dr. De Shields noted that the Bellevue Seafood Company and W.A. Turner and Sons Packing Company were one of Maryland’s few African-American owned seafood companies. The benefits of the project include educating the public about the history of the village, preserving one of the last remaining commercial structures and drawing visitors to the community. The museum will be located on a Chesapeake Country All-American Road and will be within walking distance of the Oxford-Bellevue Ferry and public landing. Dr. De Shields has been collaborating with Philip Logan, Preservation Green, LLC and the Water’s Edge Museum in Oxford on the project as well as with Talbot County Parks and Recreation, Planning & Zoning and Economic Development & Tourism. Dr. De Shields and Mr. Logan met with the Talbot County Parks and Recreation Advisory Board in July 2022 to discuss locating the museum in the County owned Bellevue Park. The Board recommended Council approval for the museum to be located in the park with the museum to be responsible for maintenance. In return, the museum will install a path and will resurface the basketball court.

County Manager’s Report –

- Board and Committee Appointments
 - Mental Health Workgroup – Mr. Stamp requested the appointment of Chuck Callahan as Council’s liaison to the Mental Health Workgroup. The request was unanimously approved by the Council.
 - Short Term Rental Review Board – Mr. Stamp requested the reappointment of Michele LaRocca to the Short Term Rental Review Board. The request was unanimously approved by the Council.
 - Tourism Board – Mr. Stamp requested the appointment of Tad duPont as the Town of St. Michaels’ representative on the Tourism Board. The request was unanimously approved by the Council.
- Request from Department of Emergency Services – Recommendation to Approve Memorandum of Understanding – Mutual Aid Firefighting, Emergency Medical Services, Hazardous Materials and Special Operations Assistance By and Between Talbot County, Maryland and Calvert County, Maryland – Council unanimously approved the request from the Department of Emergency Services to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding between Calvert and Talbot counties to formalize a mutual aid agreement. The Talbot County Volunteer Fire and Rescue Association has reviewed and received support from all fire departments.
- Request from Department of Public Works – *Bid No. 22-08, Open-Ended Architectural/Engineering Services* – Recommendation to Award Initiation of Architectural Design Services Renovations and Addition to County’s Public Safety Complex – Council unanimously approved the request from the Department of Public Works to award a contract to Davis, Bowen and Friedel, Inc. through Bid No. 22-08 for initiation of the design of building renovations and addition for the Public Safety Complex on Marys Court in the sum of \$100,000.

- Request for Local Delegation to Support Legislation to Include Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) in the Law Enforcement Officers Pension System (LEOPS) – Council unanimously supported a request for the local delegation to introduce legislation which would authorize an amendment to membership criteria to allow Emergency Medical Technicians to be included in the Law Enforcement Officers Pension System (LEOPS). If approved, this would be enabling legislation only and would not require the County to participate.

The County Council's next legislative meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 14th beginning at 6:00 p.m.

The County Council will be meeting on Tuesday, January 31st at 3:30 p.m. in a work session with the Public Works Advisory Board to review the 2023 Report of the Review and Update of the County's Comprehensive Water and Sewer Plan. The meeting is open to the public and will be held in the Bradley Meeting Room. At 5:00 p.m. the Council will be meeting with the Department of Social Services Board of Directors for an orientation. That meeting will be held at the DSS building located at 301 Bay Street in Easton.

On Friday, February 3rd the County Council will be touring the County's Repurposing Facility located at 28128 St. Michaels Road in Easton.

On Tuesday, February 7th the County Council will be touring the Talbot County Free Library – St. Michaels branch at 4:00 p.m. followed by a meeting with elected officials from Easton, Oxford, Queen Anne, St. Michaels and Trappe at 5:00 p.m. The meeting will be held at the St. Michaels Library and is open to the public.

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.